

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION OF THE)	
REASONABLENESS OF THE DEMAND SIDE)	CASE NO.
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS AND RATES OF)	2017-00097
KENTUCKY POWER COMPANY)	

ORDER

This matter arises upon the motion of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Inc. (“KFTC”), Elizabeth Sanders, and Alice Whitaker (collectively “KFTC Movants”), filed March 24, 2017, for full intervention. As a basis for their motion to intervene, KFTC Movants state that KFTC has considerable experience and expertise collaborating with utilities to develop cost-effective DSM programs. KFTC Movants further state that KFTC reimburses a sister organization for a share of the sister organization’s two regional offices that are in Kentucky Power Company’s (“Kentucky Power”) service territory. KFTC Movants further state that Ms. Sanders is a customer of Kentucky Power who is interested in the design of DSM programs to reduce energy usage and power bills. Lastly, KFTC Movants state that Ms. Whitaker is a customer of Kentucky Power because her name is on the bill sent to Lott’s Creek Community School. According to the Kentucky Secretary of State, Lott’s Creek Community School is a non-profit Kentucky corporation for which Ms. Whitaker is the registered agent.

Based on the motion to intervene and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that the only person who has a statutory right to intervene in a Commission case is the Attorney General, pursuant to KRS 367.150(8)(b). Intervention

by all others is permissive and is within the sound discretion of the Commission.¹ The Court of Appeals has held that the Commission's discretion to grant or deny a motion for intervention is not unlimited, and has enumerated the limits on the Commission's discretion with one arising under statute, the other under regulation.² The statutory limitation, KRS 278.040(2), requires that "the person seeking intervention must have an interest in the 'rates' or 'service' of a utility, since those are the only two subjects under the jurisdiction of the PSC."³

The regulatory limitation is set forth in 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(11)(a), which requires a person to demonstrate either (1) a special interest in the proceeding which is not otherwise adequately represented in the case, or (2) that intervention is likely to present issues or develop facts that will assist the Commission in fully considering the matter without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings.

In analyzing the pending motion to intervene, we find that KFTC does not receive service from Kentucky Power, is not a customer of Kentucky Power, and does not pay any rates charged by Kentucky Power. We further find that Ms. Whitaker is a registered agent of a corporation, but she does not receive service from Kentucky Power, is not a customer of Kentucky Power, and does not pay any rates charged by Kentucky Power. Lastly, we find that Ms. Sanders has offered no factual basis to justify her request, since she has not demonstrated that she is likely to assist the Commission in rendering its decision. Therefore, KFTC Movants lack the necessary interest in the DSM programs

¹ *Inter-County Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation v. Public Service Commission of Kentucky*, 407 S.W.2d 127, 130 (Ky. 1966).

² *EnviroPower, LLC v. Public Service Commission of Kentucky*, No. 2005-CA-001792-MR, 2007 WL 289328 (Ky. App. Feb. 2, 2007).

³ *Id.* at 3.

provided by Kentucky Power sufficient to justify intervention. The only interest that KFTC Movants have in the DSM rates and service of Kentucky Power is as a community organization with a generalized interest in DSM service. That interest is too remote to justify intervention here.

Further, the instant proceeding arises not from an application filed by Kentucky Power, but from an Order issued by the Commission on its own motion to investigate the reasonableness of increased spending on DSM programs. That increase in spending, which is now \$6 million annually, was part of a non-unanimous settlement agreement approved by our October 7, 2013 Order in conjunction with the approval of Kentucky Power's acquisition of an interest in the Mitchell Generating Station in Case No. 2012-00578.⁴ KFTC Movants were not a party to that case and were not a signatory to the non-unanimous settlement agreement. The Sierra Club was a party to Case No. 2012-00578, and it has been granted intervention in this matter based upon its prior participation. The Sierra Club can adequately represent the interests asserted by KFTC because of the Sierra Club's specific expertise in Kentucky Power's DSM programs and costs.

KFTC Movants will have ample opportunity to participate in this proceeding even though they are not granted intervenor status. They can review all public documents filed in this case and monitor the proceedings via the Commission's website at the following web address: https://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=97. In addition, KFTC Movants may file comments as frequently as they choose, and those

⁴ Case No. 2012-00578, *Application of Kentucky Power Company for (1) a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Authorizing the Transfer to the Company of an Undivided Fifty Percent Interest in the Mitchell Generating Station and Associated Assets; (2) Approval of the Assumption by Kentucky Power Company of Certain Liabilities in Connection with the Transfer of the Mitchell Generating Station; (3) Declaratory Rulings; (4) Deferral of Costs Incurred In Connection with the Company's Efforts to Meet Federal Clean Air Act and Related Requirements; and (5) All Other Required Approvals and Relief* (Ky. PSC Oct. 7, 2013).

comments will be entered into the record of this case. Finally, if a formal evidentiary hearing is held, KFTC Movants will be provided an opportunity at the beginning to present any information that they wish for the Commission's consideration in this matter.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that KFTC Movants' motion to intervene is denied.

By the Commission



ATTEST:


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